1987. Seven countries have subscribed to this protocol upto the end of August, 1988. India is examining the question of joining this protocol.

Repatriation by companies under FERA

1638. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the effect of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 on foreign companies in India in terms of repatriation of dividends and other funds;

(b) whether FERA has fulfilled its objective of containing outflow of foreign exchange through foreign companies operating in India; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating and major modifications in FERA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

Export of cotton

1639. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any limit fixed for the export of cotton yarn;

(b) what is the quantity and value of cotton yarn exported during 1987-88; and

(c) what is the expectation during 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 76].

Protest by spinning mills regarding polyester fibre prices

1640. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spinning mills have protested to the Central Government regarding polyester fibre prices; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Representations have been received from organisations like Indian Cotton Mills Federation, Indian Spinners Association, etc. regarding increase in the prices of polyester staple fibre.

(b) It has been re-emphasised to the Industry that benefits of duty reduction given to the Industry have to be passed on down to the next consumer in line.

Loan melas

1641. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of loan disbursed so far through loan melas; and

(b) what is the number of persons benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Public Sector Banks have been organising credit camps at their own initiative as a part of the overall measures taken by them to improve the flow of credit to weaker sections. Central monitoring of credit camps is considered to be neither feasible nor necessary and, therefore, it is not possible to give the quantum of loan disbursed and persons benefited through such camps.